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S.B. No. 2041

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to requiring an applicant for a driver's license to
3 demonstrate knowledge of motorists' rights and responsibilities in
4 relation to bicyclists.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subsections (b) and (c), Section 521.161,
7 Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

8 (b) The examination must include:

9 (1) a test of the applicant's:

10 (A) vision;

11 (B) ability to identify and understand highway
12 signs in English that regulate, warn, or direct traffic; ~~and~~

13 (C) knowledge of the traffic laws of this state;

14 and

15 (D) knowledge of motorists' rights and
16 responsibilities in relation to bicyclists;

17 (2) a demonstration of the applicant's ability to
18 exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a
19 motor vehicle of the type that the applicant will be licensed to
20 operate; and

21 (3) any additional examination the department finds
22 necessary to determine the applicant's fitness to operate a motor
23 vehicle safely.

24 (c) The department shall give each applicant the option of

1 taking the parts [~~traffic law and highway sign part~~] of the
2 examination under Subsections (b)(1)(B), (C), and (D) in writing in
3 addition to or instead of through a mechanical, electronic, or
4 other testing method. If the applicant takes that part of the
5 examination in writing in addition to another testing method, the
6 applicant is considered to have passed that part of the examination
7 if the applicant passes either version of the examination. The
8 department shall inform each person taking the examination of the
9 person's rights under this subsection.

10 SECTION 2. A driver's license examination administered by
11 the Department of Public Safety is not required to include a
12 question required by Paragraph (D), Subdivision (1), Subsection
13 (b), Section 521.161, Transportation Code, as added by this Act, if
14 the examination is administered before February 1, 2010.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.